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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/891,581	06/27/2001	Masayuki Sakura	35.C15488	3309

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/891,581	Applicant(s) SAKURA, MASAYUKI	
	Examiner Peter K. Huntsinger	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-45, 47, 59, 76, 78, 79, 81 and 82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-45, 47, 59, 76, 78, 79, 81 and 82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/31/07 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10/31/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues on pages 11-12 of the response in essence that: Shibusawa '120 does not disclose obtaining a method of synthesizing the value of the capability.

a. Shibusawa '120 discloses a user can set the collective capabilities of the printers to be ANDed (col. 8, lines 10-19). It is inherent if the user can set this function, the managing apparatus must receive some indication to perform this. Therefore, Shibusawa '120 discloses receiving capability information describing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 42-45, 47, 59, 76, 78, 79, 81, and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 42 includes the limitation "a receiving step of receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, from respective first and second print apparatuses selected in said selecting step". The applicant's specification does not describe capability information sent from the print apparatuses. The specification indicates the capability information is sent from the client computer 102 (page 9, lines 11-15). Independent claims 59 and 78 include similar limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 42-44, 47, 59, 76-82^{79 and 81-82} are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibusawa '120 in view of Zuber '103.

Referring to claim 42, Shibusawa'120 discloses a print processing method which is executed by a print system (Fig. 1) to which plural print apparatuses (2a, 2b, of Fig. 1) and an information processing apparatus (1, Fig. 1) are connected, comprising:

a selecting step of selecting at least two or more print apparatuses from among the plural print apparatuses (e.g., selecting printer A and printer B as virtual printer or selecting printer B, printer C and printer D as virtual printer, Fig. 6);

a receiving step of receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, from respective first and second print apparatuses selected in said selecting step (S2 of Fig. 9, col. 5, lines 20-27), wherein the capability description information describes a first description describing values of capabilities (S2 of Fig. 9, col. 5, lines 20-27) and a second description describing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities (col. 8, lines 10-19, inherent if user can set the capabilities to ANDing, the managing apparatus must receive some indication to perform this);

a first recognition step of recognizing values of capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from the first description (S2 of Fig. 9, col. 5, lines 20-27);

a second recognition step of recognizing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from the

second description (S7 of Fig. 9, col. 8, lines 3-19, virtual printer capabilities can be set to ANDing or ORing capabilities of the group);

a first generating step of, based on the synthesizing method recognized in said second recognition step, generating synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing a value obtained by executing Boolean operation to the values of the capabilities recognized in said first recognition step (col. 5, lines 13-32, summing the capabilities of printer a and b);

and a second generating step of, based on the synthesizing method recognized in said second recognition step, generating the synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing the capability included in at least one of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus (col. 5, lines 33-46, multiplying the capabilities of printer a and b);

Shibusawa'120 discloses multiplying the capabilities but does not disclose expressly executing an arithmetic operation of adding the capabilities (i.e. if the output number is 10 for printer A, and the output number is 20 for printer B; then the maximum output number is 30).

Zuber '103 teaches the virtual engine simply appears as a high speed entity and the speed is equal to the sum of the individual engines rated print speed (column 11, lines 30-35) by apply a arithmetic operation.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shibusawa's virtual printer to include setting the speed of the virtual printer as the speed equals to the sum of the individual printer rated print speed by performing an arithmetic operation such that a user or system of Shibusawa would easily determines how fast the virtual printer is or whether the user's print job would be able to print on time.

Note: Since Shibusawa teaches adding paper tray to paper tray and paper size to paper size; it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the server of Shibusawa to add paper tray to paper tray and speed to speed and paper size to paper size.

Referring to claim 43, Shibusawa'120 discloses an attribute setting step of setting a print attribute of the print data (col. 8, lines 10-25), wherein the setting of the print attribute in said attribute setting step can be performed based on the synthesized capability description information generated in said first generating step or said second generating step (col. 5, lines 20-27, col. 6, lines 50- 67).

Referring to claim 44, Shibusawa'120 discloses an indicating step of indicating print of the print data, wherein the print data print-indicated in said indicating step is subjected to dispersion print by the print apparatuses selected in said selecting step (col. 4, lines 25-32).

Referring to claim 47, Shibusawa'120 discloses, an input operation step of being able to perform an input operation for updating the content of the capability description information of each of the plural print apparatuses (col. 4, 50-67, col. 5, lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 59, see the rejection of claim 42 above.

Referring to claim 76, Shibusawa'120 discloses wherein the capability described in the capability information is at least any one of the number of output bins, paper type, and duplex (col. 5-6, lines 13-67, 1-5).

Referring to claim 78, see the rejection of claim 42 above.

Referring to claim 79, see the rejection of claim 76 above.

Referring to claim 81, see the rejection of claim 43 above.

Referring to claim 82, Shibusawa'120 discloses wherein the information processing apparatus, the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus are connected through a network (network 260 of Fig. 6).

7. Claims 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibusawa'120 in view of Zuber '103 as applied to claims 44 above, and in further view of Lobiondo '194.

Referring to claim 45, Shibusawa'120 does not disclose expressly a receiving unit adapted to receive notification of information representing how the print data has been subjected to the dispersion print.

Lobiondo '194 teaches a receiving unit adapted to receive notification of information representing how the print data has been subjected to the dispersion print (col. 5, lines 10-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shibusawa to include: a receiving unit adapted to receive notification of information representing how the print data has been subjected to the dispersion print. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shibusawa by the teaching of Lobiondo because: it would have allowed users knowing where their print jobs are being printed, and it would have allowed users to know where to look for their print jobs to save time.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

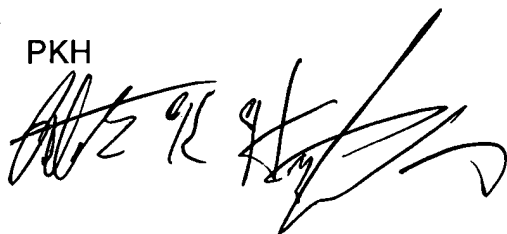
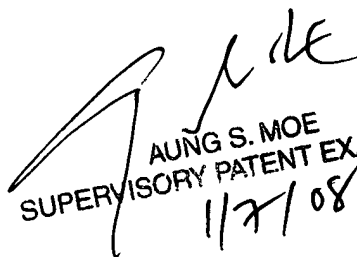
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Moe Aung can be reached on (571)272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PKH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PKH' followed by a stylized flourish.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AUNG S. MOE' followed by a stylized flourish.

AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
11/7/08